recommendations have been implemented in varying degrees depending on their feasibilities and have been taken into account while formulating the programmes for implementing the price policy as also in deciding the developmental activities for crop production.

Diversion of Funds Meant for Tiger Conservation

290. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH:
SHRIMATI MALTI SHARMA:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a report according to which a UK-based organisation 'The Tiger Trust' has accused the Indian branch of 'world wide fund for nature', for diverting millions of pounds meant for tiger conservation;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereon;

(c) whether Government are aware that tigers are in peril due to unchecked poaching and mining;

(d) if so, what steps Government are taking to save the tigers; and

(e) the population of tiger in the country during the years 1994, 1995 and so far in 1996?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS: (CAPT. JAI NARAIN PRASAD NISHAD): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Since the World Wide Fund for Nature-India is an independant non-governmental organisation, the Government of India do not have any information regarding their inflow or outflow of funds.

(c) No, Sir, However, habitat fragmentation and of illegal trade of tiger parts from skin to bone trade is posing renewed threat to tiger population.

(d) The steps taken by the Government are given in the statement enclosed. *(see* below)

(e) The All India Tiger Census is carried out once in four years. The estimated population of tigers, according to 1993 All India Census, was 3750.

Statement

Information regarding steps taken by Govt. to save tigers

(i) A "Tiger Crisis Cell" has been set up in the Ministry to suggest improvement in the management of tiger bearing areas of the country;

(ii) J.J. Dutta Committee, which was constiuted on the advice of department related Parliamentary Committee for this Ministry, has also enquired into the issue of tiger conservation in project Tiger areas, and their recommendations are being acted upon within the constraints of budget and infrastructure.

(iii) the State Governments have been advised to strengthen vigilance and intensify patrolling;

(iv) Steps are being initiated to set up "Special Strike Force" in the Project Tiger areas;

(v) Inter-departmental coordination through the National Coordination Committee under the Ministry is showing positive results in the detection of more cases of poaching and illegal trade;

(vi) Funds under Centrally Sponsored Project Tiger Scheme are released to the State Governments for strengthening the protection network and improvement of tiger habitat;

(vii) A Protocol has been signed with the Govt. of Peoples' Republic of China to coordinate bilateral issues concerning tiger conservation and to check smuggling and the illegal trade of tiger bones and other parts of its body; and

(viii) Steps have been initiated by the Government to establish the 'Global Tiger Forum' for strengthening international cooperation to curb

poaching of tiger and to coordinate efforts for the conservation of tiger and its habitat throughout the tiger range countries.

Withdrawl of Funds by Railways

291. DR. B.B. DUTTA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount credited by Railways to the Depreciation Reserve Fund (DRF) Capital Fund (CF) and Pension Fund (PF) during 1994-95 and 1995-96;

(b) the amount withdrawn by Railways from these funds during 1995-96 and 1996-97 (April-September, 1996);

(c) whether the Ministry of Finance have not permitted the Railways to withdraw money from these key sources for funding developmental plans;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) whether this is one of the reasons for making lower provisions under the important developmental plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) Amount credited by Railways to DRF, Capital Fund and Pension Fund during 1994-95 and 1995-96 is as under:—

(Figures in crores of Rs.)

Year	DRF	Capital Fund	Pension Fund
1994-95	2005.75	2216.04	2070.41
1995-96	2190.38	2624.63	2170.34

(b) Amount withdwan by the Railways from these funds during 1995-96 and 1996-97 (April-September, 1996) is as under:—

(Figures in crores of Rs.)

Year	DRF	Capital Fund	Pension Fund
1995-96	2027.10	1858.64	2117.18
1996-97 (upto Sept.)	1015.23	893.95	952.75

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.